

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – September 20, 2011

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:30 p.m., Mykal Sonsteli led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer.

Council Members Present:

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Tom Feltman, Duane Koble, Laura Alderman, Dale Craft, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Wendy Paulson, Greg Schmalz, Lisa Suda, Corporate Secretary Mykal Sonsteli

Council Members Absent: Bonnie Faller, Anne Moynihan, Don Schott, Ed Schwind, Leon Senn and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary

Guest: Fr. Chris Markman

Chairman Greg Schmalz called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Minutes from the 08/23/2011 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

OLD BUSINESS

Nativity Anew II Update

Fr. Kevin reported that the architect is on task and close to a finished design so that construction drawing will be completed by the end of October. The engineering portion of the design is still in process. Fr. Kevin has received the official approval of the financial piece of the project from the Diocese of Fargo; with only the changes to the original design to yet be approved. Blinds and installation for all the classroom windows has been donated by an individual.

Fundraising update – Pledges are being honored with very few write-offs. Preliminary lists of parishioners registered the past three years are being compiled; as well as a letter to the families of students at Nativity School.

Other Old Business – None

NEW BUSINESS

Nativity's 50th Anniversary Update

Duane provided a brief recap of events during the 50th Anniversary year.

- Fall Festival plans are in place due to Chairpersons Fr. Tom Feltman and the Nesler family.
- Concert with the Moorhead Youth Symphony is scheduled for November 20th
- Will close the year with the annual Christmas celebration.
- Fr. Kevin added that the last of five decades of movies will be shown next Sunday. "Dead Man Walking" focuses on the death penalty and is an inspiring story of conversion. Movie attendance has ranged from 10-17 people.

Duane commented that it has been a year of many blessings and that Nativity is closing one chapter and opening another.

Fall Festival Written Plan

Fr. Tom reported that a Fall Festival meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks. Raffle tickets were mailed this past week to all parishioners. \$1,950 was collected this past Sunday from raffle ticket sales.

Time & Talent Plan

Duane reported that “Time and Talent” was mentioned at all the homilies this past weekend. This will continue for several more Sundays, including completion of the Time & Talent surveys. Staff discussion will be held regarding the best time of the year to conduct the “Time & Talent” survey because there is so much activity when school starts and during the fall, that maybe spring would be a better time of the year to conduct the survey. Important to keep in mind that “stewardship” is not just treasure; but also time & talent. Plans are being considered to form a Stewardship Committee at Nativity.

Discernment Process

This is the time of the year for all councils, committees and commissions to begin a preliminary review of all open terms and positions. Duane requested that all liaisons on the Pastoral Council address this with their respective commissions and councils and return with a report at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Recording Secretary Brenda Lang handed out the Pastoral Council Membership List and reviewed the terms and positions of council members. Besides the executive one-year terms, Ed Schwind can discern if he will serve a second 3-year term and Leon Senn will be stepping off the council December 2011, as he will have completed the maximum of two 3-year terms.

- Duane requested that all the Executive Officers on the Pastoral Council discern their positions first by the October council meeting.
- Then by the November meeting, the remaining council members will be asked to discern a liaison or member-at-large position on the council so that the process will be completed before year end.
- Fr. Kevin is responsible for appointing the Corporate Lay Secretary and Corporate Lay Treasurer, which are one-year terms. Fr. Kevin noted that these appointments will be completed at the next Stewardship meeting in October.
- Jean Hannig has completed a six-year term representing Nativity Parish at Deanery II. Fr. Kevin is responsible for appointing a new Nativity Deanery Representative.

Chairman Greg Schmalz asked the entire Council to provide names of people they know to consider as a potential council member. Please contact Greg with your recommendations. Greg added that he and Vice Chair Joe Miranowski will also be compiling a list of names to contact.

Brenda also noted that although the By-Laws require a minimum of 11 members on the Pastoral Council, but more than 11 members may serve on the Pastoral Council.

Liturgical Text Changes

Fr. Kevin reported that the only change right now has been the Penitential Rite and the Gloria. The upcoming revision with the “Holy Holy” is only a one-word change. As presiders, Fr. Kevin said they have not noticed any particular problems with the changes except for the additional time needed for people to gather their cards to follow the revisions. As expected, there is some confusion with the changes to the new texts, but Nativity has taken active measures to assist parishioners with these changes. No one came to ask Fr. Kevin any questions after Mass. It was noted that all parishes are making these changes in their own timeframes.

Article Discussion – “The Eucharist – Communion” and “The Eucharist – Sending”

Fr. Kevin reviewed the two articles provided for this meeting. As a musician and with his background over the past 30 years with the liturgy, the communion rite is of particular interest to him personally. This rite consists of seven actions beginning with the Lords Prayer, Sign of Peace, Breaking of the Bread and Lamb of God, Communion Procession, Time for Meditation, Prayer after Communion, Greeting & Blessing and final Procession. Fr. Kevin broke out the communion rite for the council members.

- These seven actions are recognized actually as one action and one prayer.
- The Lords Prayer synthesizes everything we do in the entire Mass, beginning with the words “Our Father” and is prayed together.

- Give us this day our daily bread...there is evidence in the past that people gathered daily for the breaking of bread.
- Forgiveness of others...this is the reason we turn to one another for the sign of peace. Be wary that this action does not become a “false” sign of peace between people. It is a very important action, but should not be overdone to the point it becomes a distraction to communion.
- The communion rite is the sign of our community united as one with the formal breaking of the bread & Lamb of God called the “fraction rite”; as the consecrated bread and wine have been broken as was Christ’s body broken when placed on the cross. Fr. Kevin noted that some of that broken host is shared with the parish when the priest distributes communion.
- “Lord I am not worthy to receive you”...We each hold the Lord in our hands when this is spoken, and is a personal sense of forgiveness and grace in that moment as we all remember that none of us are worthy to receive the Lord.
- At communion, we proceed forward to come to eat and drink; although again, we are not worthy. Some sign of reverence is appropriate when receiving communion; either by making the sign of the cross which is a personal blessing; or with a bow or genuflection. In America, the general sign of veneration is a profound bow before receiving communion.
- As long as people are receiving communion, it is important for each of us to recognize that we are all still in the action of communion.
- Silent reverent time is also important not only to the person receiving communion, but also after all people have received communion. We each need to be conscious of every person in the process of receiving communion and pray for them as they receive.
- When the priest says, “Let us pray”...this is the collection of prayer of all individuals.
- Announcements are appropriately placed after “Let us pray”.
- The final sending rite is exactly that...“The Lord be with you”, followed by our response, and the priest’s blessing on all those gathered.

Laura Alderman joined the Council at 7:34 p.m.

Other New Business

Pastor’s Comments

Fr. Kevin drew attention to “Christ Renews His Parish”. The continuation committee of four men and four women have made a two-year commitment to CRHP and its continuation at Nativity parish. Fr. Kevin stated that he has received a lot of positive feedback to bringing CRHP back; but forming the men’s and women’s teams has been a challenge. Stephanie Kautzman is in process of recruiting for the women’s team with five women stepping forward to date. The women’s CRHP is scheduled for the last weekend of January 2012 and the men’s CHRP for the last weekend in February 2012.

Although recruiting a team has been slow, Father is still operating on the assumption that the women’s CRHP weekend will take place in January. Father does need a person to make the calls to recruit the men’s team. He also noted that he would like to have a CRHP representative on the Pastoral Council.

Two formation meetings have been held to date to move CRHP forward. Please keep in mind that the CRHP teams will hold a shortened preparation since people have been on team before. The women’s team does need to be in place no later than mid-October to be able to meet in six weekends. CRHP materials are still available as Teri Dahl conducted an inventory of all material.

Associate Pastor’s Comments

- Sr. Sharon Houlse, Don Tillisch and Naomi West will be Befriender Leaders once they complete their week of training. A number of Befrienders have stepped up for training.
- Faith formation will begin Wednesday-September 21st.

- Fall Festival – As reported earlier, raffle tickets were mailed out and a meeting will be scheduled soon.

Stewardship Council – No report.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- The annual Commercial/Retail Fire Prevention Inspection report for 2011 was received and Nativity's buildings have met the minimum fire code requirements. This is important as we move forward with the building project. The insurance company conducts a physical inspection every two years.
- The 50th Anniversary Pictorial Directory draft copy arrived this week and is being circulated to the staff for review. Many hours were put into this very unique directory. The plan is to distribute the directory in December during Advent as a gift to the parish that was formed 50 years ago. To those who chose not to have their picture taken, they may purchase the directory for a \$20 fee.
- Care and Share is 4% of our adult offertory envelopes and collected to help those less fortunate. The Stewardship Council recommended to route funds to the Little Flower School in Minot, ND who lost their building from flooding; the Emergency Food Pantry which is relocating; and Fraser for all the work they do. Care and Share distributions tie directly to Nativity's Mission Statement.
- Tonight, John Klocke with Catholic United Financial was speaking on IRAs and how they affect people with their long-term planning. Duane plans to schedule more of these classes and continue to plant the seeds of stewardship when a person conducts their estate planning.
- Financially, Offertory is down a bit coming off of summer, which is no different than prior years. Most parishioners follow through with their stewardship by the end of the year. Nativity has had some cash flow issues this year that will be addressed in upcoming bulletins and individual notices will be mailed to parishioners to summarize their financial stewardship. May need to tap into the restricted funds account to meet expenses.

Committee & Commission Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Liaison Bonnie Faller was absent but had no report. Fr. Kevin did report that Michael O'Leary had organized a Saturday to clean up the rectory grounds, apply fresh mulch, trimmed shrubs, and added dirt. Thank you to all who helped.

Deanery Representative – Jean Hannig had e-mailed a report which Fr. Kevin summarized in her absence. He briefly described that the Deaneries secure direction from the laity and report to the Diocesan Pastoral Council which meets twice a year. The meeting in May was cancelled; therefore, the three statements that were to be discussed between May need to be addressed after securing feedback from the laity. The three statements are:

1. During Lent, the Bishops of North Dakota gave a joint statement on Charitable Giving and Catholic Teaching. Ten organizations were listed that parishioners were discouraged from supporting. The Bishop is seeking comment on the reception of the statement; therefore, Fr. Kevin entertained comments from the council. Comments included that the statement was laid out well to assist in making decisions; the whole area of moral reasoning came through very strongly, as well as the teachings of the church. The statement provided an education about these organizations and what they truly support. Most people are not aware of that some of these organizations purposes have changed. Stewardship principles were also noted, that a person should not only be concerned about where there money is going, but also where you are investing your money.
2. If anyone is taking advantage of the Catechist Training for ECHOES and Maryvale Certificate in Catechesis? This is a formal theological training, but not as deep as other training.

3. What is the parish's practice for holding retreats for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist? Responses included that these retreats are well done; the instruction made it easier to prepare children; and provided the tools necessary to be the primary educator for these sacraments. Fr. Tom summarized what is done on these retreat weekends.
- The October Sunday afternoon retreat starts with prayer and then parents and children are split into separate groups. They walk through the catechism and reconciliation; conduct a mock reconciliation; and end with prayer.
 - In the spring, the same type of retreat is held for confirmation and Eucharist. They walk through the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" and go over the catechism. At the Eucharist retreat, Fr. Tom speaks specifically about the Eucharist. Also conduct a walk-through for both sacraments. Is an excellent 3-hour retreat for both parents and children.

Fr. Tom also summarized the parent partnership at Nativity. For some grades, parents and children come together with Kathy Bourdon and Fr. Tom who conduct a "Catholic Jeopardy" game from the text that they are using. It differs for each class and is different every week for the grade participating. They are using the text "Well Built Faith" by Joe Paprocki, Dmin.

The process to "Break open the Word" for children includes singing together, proclaiming the next week's Gospel followed by a short homily, and then break off into smaller groups. Various events are held throughout the year for the children.

Duane commented that Nativity conducts numerous service projects and fundraisers; and that this parish is blessed with its pastoral staff.

Fr. Kevin will bring the council's comments forward at the next Deanery meeting and a general summary of all discussions will be compiled.

JPII – Laura Alderman reported briefly on the following:

- This week is Homecoming Week with a variety of activities.
- Eighth graders will go on their 10-mile walk from Holy Spirit to Shanley for their annual fundraiser which will be sent to the Little Flower Church in Minot.
- A school improvement review will be done by all schools in October from an academic perspective.
- Retreats are coming up for middle school.
- Planning for "Holiday Lights" has begun. Are in need of donation of Christmas lights. Are partnering with Sertoma this Christmas season. There are coupons if you attend Holiday Lights and the \$2 fee will go back to JPII.
- "Fit for Fifty" was the Nativity School fundraiser. One of the parents made a video of the fundraiser that Laura shared with the Council at the end of the meeting and Fr. Kevin would send by email to the council members.

Health Advisory Commission – Liaison Wendy Paulson reported on the following:

- Nurtured Heart classes will be conducted by Debra Boyer from the parish. The five sessions are open to anyone, including people outside the parish. The cost is \$60 per couple with a limited sign up.
- The term "parish nurse" is being changed to "Faith Community Nursing". The concept is based on the fact that it is a faith community, no matter what denomination, versus "parish nurse". Information regarding this change will be included in the Voice. Note that Concordia will no longer offer their parish nurse program. Sanford will provide grants for other parishes to offer the program. There is a mechanism to put this into place; especially in rural areas.
- Sr. Sharon is planning to form a support group because the number of people caring for a family member is on the rise resulting in more stress. A survey will be conducted to assess how Nativity can assist with this need.
- Although the American Heart Association Grant was not awarded, programs such as Nurtured Heart and Better U Project are still being held. Nativity's part in the 12-week Healthy Heart living will be

to host three of the sessions and provide snacks. Participants will continue the program on their own with their workbooks. Topics of the three sessions include overall heart education, diabetes and heart attack.

- Healthy Family Living was a pilot project. Sr. Sharon started with four families to raise awareness levels for healthy eating. In the end, three filled out the survey forms and two families completed the program.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Lisa Suda reported on the following:

- The commission started something different this year by holding discussion on the book, “A Biblical Walk through the Mass” prior to conducting business.
- Drafted new wedding & funeral brochures.
- Spoke about Catechical Sunday to be held on September 17 & 18; with the plan to incorporate this theme of “Do this in Memory of Me” throughout the liturgical year.
- Ministry Day is Saturday October 8th. Melissa and Fr. Kevin will lead the event with a large group session first; followed by breaking out into the various ministries.
- Time and Talent discussion will be held during two weekend liturgies.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Dale Craft had no report.

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Ed Schwind was absent and no report was provided.

Youth Ministry – Leon Senn was absent and had no report.

Announcements

- Chairman Greg Schmalz announced that the next Pastoral Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2011.
- At 8:45 p.m., Laura Alderman and Fr. Kevin showed the YouTube video of the Nativity Fundraiser done by Lee Hoedl. The children raised \$19,400 in two weeks. The 400 t-shirts were a donation for all the children.
- Father Chris will be headed to Rome and will have completed his time at Nativity on September 26th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. after closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary